

Tempe Art in Private Development



SRP Credit Union

1507 N. Project Drive

Russell Marohnic of Artscapes, Inc.

River Passage, 2000

Natural stone

Artist website: www.home.earthlink.net/~stoneart

Photo: Craig Smith

Description: This one-of-a-kind contemporary piece, created of hand-selected quarried sandstone dating back two million years, is comprised of three unique water pillars which seem to grow from their base in freeform shapes. Each pillar's cascading water flows into "river" shapes meandering below with tranquil, melodic sounds. The custom curved viewing bench provides a place of repose to appreciate the sounds and shapes of this sculpture. For the artist, it is important that his creations complement their environment. The play of light and sensitivity to each sculpture's surroundings is a major factor in his designs. *River Passage* earned the SRP Credit Union team a Beautification Award for Art in Private Development Excellence in 2001.

Artist biography: Marohnic's background includes space design, construction, and sculpture. Since 1992, he has been creating contemporary sculptures of native stone in his Artscapes, Inc. sculpture studio. It is important that his sculptures complement their surrounding environment and interact with the play of light. Marohnic hand picks his stones at quarries for coloration and veining, ensuring a one-of-a-kind character. He specializes in works created with metal, stone and/or glass, with tranquil engineered water sounds that are as unique as their shapes. Preserving the material and turning the stone into works of art to be appreciated is an act of love and passion for the artist. Marohnic has been featured in many national publications, and has created works for numerous public and commercial installations nationwide.

Funding: This project was funded by the individual developer, SRP Credit Union, as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.